

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 18-24, 27, 28, 33, and 34, to place claims 1-36 in proper U.S. format, to add claim 37, and to amend the abstract paragraph.

A courtesy copy of the present specification is enclosed herewith. However, the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO) copy should be relied upon if it is already in the U.S. Patent Office.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

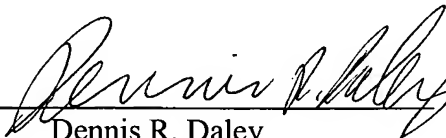
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Dennis R. Daley (Reg. No. 34,994), at (612) 336-4689.

Respectfully submitted,



MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: December 22, 2005

By 
Dennis R. Daley
Reg. No. 34,994

DRD/ncb